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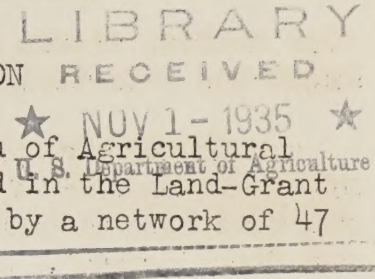
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ADVANCES IN FARM HOUSING INFORMATION RECEIVED



A radio talk by Mr. S. H. McCrory, Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the Land-Grant College Radio Program, October 16, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 47 associate NBC radio stations.

Recently I was present at the exercises commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the laying, by John Johnston, of the first drain tile in the United States. Johnston was a farmer who frequently tried new ideas to see if they would make his farm better. He was not satisfied with the crops that grew on his farm in New York State and decided to experiment with tile drains and so he sent to Scotland for samples of drain tile and from these samples had the tile he used made in a local factory.

As I walked over the farm where Johnston lived for so many years I was interested to learn that the house he built in 1822 was still in use. Were he to return and remodel this house or build a new one, what new things could he find today to make his home more comfortable and to make the work of his wife easier? I am sure that one of the first things he would attempt would be to have his farm supplied with electric current and then he and his wife would have figured out what equipment they could use to the best advantage about the home and in the homestead. The efforts of the Rural Electrification Administration are soon going to give many farmers the opportunity that John Johnston did not have to figure out this problem. Bringing electricity to your home is going to make lots of things possible, such as light at the touch of a switch, running water, a bath room, a new refrigerator, an electric washer, an electric iron, a radio. Some of these improvements undoubtedly will make it necessary to remodel your home a bit if they are to be installed most satisfactorily or perhaps you want to change the arrangement of your rooms. If you are to get the best results, it is best to plan carefully before you start remodeling. Farmers' Bulletin 1749, "Modernizing Farmhouses", will give you a lot of useful hints on how to make your home more convenient and more livable.

One of the things that our engineers and architects are especially interested in now is the use of insulating materials of many kinds in the farm home to make it warmer in winter and cooler in summer. There is a great variety of insulating materials and the material comes in many forms. You can get it in large sheets, in the form of quilts, in bricks, or as loose material that can be poured or blown into inaccessible openings between walls or between ceilings and floors. There is a form of insulation suited to almost any condition. Its use reduces heat losses and cuts heating costs in winter and makes the house cooler and more livable in summer. If you are building a new home or remodeling the old one, it is a good idea to find out about insulation, or, if your heating bills are running too high, perhaps its use may be one convenient way to cut that cost.

Also, there are a lot of interesting-looking devices and materials for weatherstripping your doors and windows or sealing cracks and thus keeping heat in and cold out. It has been the observation of our engineers



that sealing cracks and applying a type of weatherstripping that suits your house and pocketbook helps keep down heating costs.

The results of the Farmhouse Survey made recently show that many roofs are in need of attention. If you are having trouble with your roof you will find in Farmers' Bulletin 1751, "Roof Coverings For Farm Buildings and Their Repair", a lot of helpful information about the different types of roof coverings and good ways of making repairs on various kinds of roofs.

Another study that one of our engineers has been making recently of the use of bottled gas in cook stoves, water heaters, and other similar equipment, has interested me greatly. These stoves are very similar to the gas stoves that are used in cities and are much cooler and more convenient to work with than stoves burning coal or wood, due to the fact that they can be turned on or off quickly and do not have large surfaces to radiate heat. If you are planning to remodel your kitchen or install new water heating equipment, you will be interested in looking into what can be accomplished with these devices.

Some families are having just as interesting a time finding out how much more comfortable they can make their homes with these new materials or how much labor can be saved as John Johnston did in finding out how, by the use of tile drains, he could grow 60 bushels of wheat to the acre when he had formerly grown 20 bushels.